

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 1, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 12, and 16 are amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 12 is found at least on page 8, lines 3-5 of the specification. Claim 16 is amended to correct an informality. New claim 19 is added. No new matter is added. Claims 1-19 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 7, 8, 12 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5, 887, 256 to Lu et al. (Lu). Applicants respectfully submit that Lu fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-11 depend, is directed to a method of communicating information. Information about possible associations between an identifier of a mobile user equipment and user plane addresses is stored in a storage module. A service provisioning entity receives a request for the service from a client connected to a communication system, said request including the identifier of the mobile user equipment. The method includes verifying if a user plane address can be found from the storage means based on the identifier. If such a user plane address is found from the storage means, data associated is communicated with provisioning of the requested

service to the mobile user equipment over an active user plane connection associated with said address found from the storage module. If no user plane address can be found from the storage module based on the identifier, establishing a new user plane connection and communicating data associated with a provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment over said established user plane connection. Thus, provisioning of the service in the communication system is provided.

Claim 12, from which claims 13-18 depend, is directed to an arrangement in a communication system. A service provisioning entity for receiving a service request from the client, the request identifying a mobile user equipment, by an identifier. A storage module maintains information regarding possible associations between the identifier of the mobile user equipment and user plane addresses that can be used for user plane data transmissions in said communication system. The storage module is arranged to verify if a user plane address for communication of data can be found from the storage module based on the identifier. If such a user plane address is found from the storage module, data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment is communicated over an active user plane connection associated with said address found from the storage module. If no user plane address can be found from the storage module based on the identifier, a new user plane connection is established and data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment is communicated over said established user plane connection. In response to a request from a client,

provision of a service is provided, which requires, communication of data to and/or from the mobile user equipment.

Applicants respectfully submit that Lu fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims.

Lu is directed to hybrid cellular communications which has a private mobile services switching centre, for facilitating cellular communication for and among a plurality of native cellular handsets. The hybrid cellular communications network also facilitates cellular communication between a non-native cellular handset and a public cellular network, which has a public mobile services switching center. Lu further discloses a registry coupled to the private mobile services switching center. The registry contains data identifying each of the plurality of native cellular handsets as handsets that subscribe to the hybrid cellular communications network, wherein the non-native handset is not identified in the registry as a handset that subscribes to the hybrid cellular communications network.

Further, in Lu, a circuit is coupled to the registry for determining, responsive to the data registry, whether the communication data pertaining to a call originates from one of the plurality of native cellular handsets or from a non-native cellular handset. If the circuit determines that the communication data originates from one of the native cellular handsets, the circuit passes the communication data to the private handset. On the other hand, if the circuit determines that the communication data originates from a non-native

cellular handset, the circuit passes the communication data to a base station controller. This facilitates completion of a call path for a non-native handset.

Applicants respectfully submit that Lu fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of if such a user plane address is found from the storage module, communicating data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment over an active user plane connection associated with said address found from the storage module, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 12. More specifically, the registry disclosed in Lu does not read upon the recited features of claims 1 and 12.

Lu discloses that the registry includes stored identification data for the native handsets and telephone number associated therewith. When making a call, the registry is used to identify if the handset is a native handset, and if so, a connection is made within the private network. If no corresponding identification data and telephone number are found in the registry then a connection is made via the public network. Thus, according to Lu, a connection is made either within the private network or through the public network. As discussed above, in the present invention, in contrast, the requested service is provided over an active user plane connection if one is present, and alternately, a new user plane connection is made.

Applicants respectfully submit that because claims 7, 8, and 18, depend from claims 1 and 12, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 12, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Lu fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of claims 1, 7, 8, 12, and 18. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, 8, 12 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 2-5, 9-11, and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Lu, in view of US Publication No. 2002/0022483 (referred to as 09/767,374 in the Office Action) to Thompson et al. (Thompson). The Office Action took the position that Lu disclosed all of the features of the above claims, except the feature of the requested service that comprises a location information service and said data communicated on the user plane associates with provisioning of the information regarding the geographical location of the mobile user equipment. The Office Action asserted that Thompson disclosed this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the above claims. Specifically, Lu is deficient at least for the reasons discussed above, and Thompson fails to cure these deficiencies.

Lu is discussed above. Thompson is directed to a distributed network communications system for providing access to multiple wireless service providers (WSPs) on a shared network infrastructure. The system includes a plurality of access points (APs) coupled to a network which may be distributed in airports, mass-transit stations, businesses, etc. The network may couple to a wide area network, such as the Internet. Each AP may include a plurality of virtual APs (VAPs), each corresponding to a

WSP. A portable computing device (PCD) of a user stores identification information indicating a WSP of a plurality of possible WSPs, and which may include an access level of the user. Each AP "listens for" or detects identification information associated with numerous WSPs. When the AP receives the identification information from the PCD, it determines the VAP/WSP for the PCD using the identification information. Network access is then provided to the PCD through the determined WSP at the determined access level. However, Thompson fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of if such a user plane address is found from the storage module, communicating data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment over an active user plane connection associated with said address found from the storage module. Thus, Thompson fails to cure the deficiencies of Lu.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of claims 2-5, 9-11, and 13-16. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5, 9-11, and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Lu, in view of US Patent No. 6,822,954 to McConnell et al. (McConnell). The Office Action took the position that Lu disclosed all of the features of these claims except for the feature of the identifier which includes a Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network (MSISDN) number of the mobile user equipment. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to

disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims. Specifically, Lu is deficient at least for the reasons discussed above, and McConnell fails to cure these deficiencies.

Lu is discussed above. McConnell is directed to a gateway that has a stack with a bearer adaptation layer and an HTTP client. The gateway may be connected by an HTTP link to an origin server and by a bearer interface to a mobile network. It may also be connected by an HTTP link to a WTA server. A context manager is a user on the stack and supports interfaces to allow access to external entities in a versatile manner. An event manager captures events including billing events and writes to an event log and to a billing log. A management entity provides overall control and sets configurations for the event manager. However, McConnell fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of if such a user plane address is found from the storage module, communicating data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment over an active user plane connection associated with said address found from the storage module. Thus, McConnell fails to cure the deficiencies of Lu.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of claims 6 and 17. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.


New claim 19 is added. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 19.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-19 recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each of claims 1-19 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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